

BBC Learning English  
Words in the news  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2008  
*Killed journalists' memorial  
opens in London*

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*The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has paid tribute to the hundreds of journalists who have been killed on assignment. Mr Ban said the 10 metre-high memorial on top of BBC Broadcasting House in central London stood 'in tribute to all those who have sacrificed their lives so that the rest of us could be informed'. This report from Allan Little:*

A single pillar of light rises 900 metres into the night sky from the roof of the BBC's headquarters at Broadcasting House - part of a light sculpture, called Breathing, that will change **the skyline of London** each night from now on, from ten till ten thirty - **in tandem with** the BBC's main television news programme.

Mr Ban said it was **a solemn reminder** of those who had lost their lives **giving voice to the voiceless, a beacon of hope** for the millions of people **thirsting for** truth.

The BBC Director General Mark Thompson said the job of gathering the news had become far more dangerous. **On average**, two journalists had been killed each week, every week, for the last ten years. In 90 per cent of cases, he said, no-one had been **brought to justice**.

Among those **attending the ceremony** were the families of journalists who have died or been murdered **on assignment** - the family of the BBC producer Kate Peyton, shot dead in Somalia in 2005, and of cameraman Simon Cumbers, killed in Saudi Arabia nine months earlier.

Allan Little, BBC News, London

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>the skyline of London</b>	the shape made against the sky by London's buildings, bridges, monuments and sculptures
<b>in tandem with</b>	to coincide with; at the same time as the main BBC TV News programme is broadcast
<b>a solemn reminder</b>	a very earnest/serious visual message that makes people aware
<b>giving voice to the voiceless</b>	describing suffering, injustice, deadly danger etc. on behalf of those who have no chance or power to speak for themselves
<b>a beacon of hope</b>	here, a source and symbol of inspiration, leading people to believe that something good will happen in the future
<b>thirsting for</b>	desperately looking for
<b>On average</b>	typically
<b>brought to justice</b>	made to stand trial (and convicted)
<b>attending the ceremony</b>	present at the opening of the monument
<b>on assignment</b>	while away on duty; while working away

**More on this story:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/broadcastinghouse/memorial/sculpture.shtml>

**Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/06/080618\\_journalists\\_memorial.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/06/080618_journalists_memorial.shtml)